



## 2010 SPECIAL SESSION: DAY 18

April 1, 2010

Dear Kitchen Cabinet members,

I wish I could tell you that this was an April Fool's Day joke, but the Senate didn't even break a sweat this afternoon. We did the usual...passed three bills and went home after an hour and a half. And it looks like we won't be back for another week as **the majority party has a new tax increase proposal, and is said to be close to an agreement with each other on which of your taxes to raise.** Also, because it appears that the original sales tax increase proposal is now off the table, the various new taxes which had previously been considered are now on the table again.



I suppose the good news is that the closer they come to an agreement among themselves, the sooner this costly special session will come to an end. As of today, the estimated total cost to taxpayers is up to \$222,900.

### More tax measures passed

While no bills of prime budgetary importance were brought to the floor today, the Senate did pass [Senate Bill 6846](#). This measure would add a new tax increase of 25 cents to your cell phone bill to fund improved 9-1-1 services. It would also add that tax to your internet service bill if you use VOIP (voice over internet protocol) to make your calls. **While I agree that improving the decades-old system statewide would be beneficial, raising taxes is not the way to go about funding it and some of the money won't even remain in Pierce County.** It's a new perpetual tax increase and I voted no.

As I've been saying from the beginning, the Legislature must restructure how it operates instead of just doing business as usual. There are dozens and dozens of reforms and cost-saving measures which our state could implement to fund an improved 9-1-1 system. However the majority chose once again to simply raise your taxes to do it instead of taking the sometimes challenging steps in the right direction.

## Washington's budget philosophy compared to Idaho's



On Monday, the Idaho State Legislature adjourned its regular session on time and without any tax increases. **Washington's Legislature, on the other hand, is still in a special session to raise taxes by about \$800 million instead of learning to live within its means.**

Idaho obviously gets the message that you can't spend money you don't have.

Our state government seems to be headed in the opposite direction. Rather than bringing spending back in line with revenue, the majority party in Washington plans to heap new taxes on families and businesses. **The majority party needs to learn to spend within its means, though I doubt they ever will.**



## Bill signings in Lakewood

On Wednesday, I had the honor of attending the governor's bill signing ceremony at the Lakewood Police Department. She signed at least a dozen public safety-related bills, including Senate Bill 6673 to create a work group that will study our state's bail bond system. Also signed into law was Senate Bill 6610, which improves procedures relating to the commitment of persons found not guilty by reason of insanity.



The bill creates an independent public safety review panel to review DSHS's proposals for conditional release, furlough, temporary leaves, or movement around the grounds for persons found not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI). **The panel must complete an independent assessment and provide a written determination of the public safety risk presented by any conditional release recommended by DSHS.** Also, If DSHS determines that a person committed as NGRI presents an unreasonable safety risk which, based on behavior, clinical history, and facility security is not manageable in a state hospital setting, the secretary may arrange for the placement of the person in any facility operated by DSHS or the DOC, provided that appropriate mental health treatment is provided. I believe this provision of the bill, which I negotiated with the Senate majority and the governor's office, will help keep dangerous individuals like Isaac Zamora out of Western State Hospital and in prison where they will be less of a danger to our community.

### In closing...

If you know someone in our district who might be interested in receiving these updates, please feel free to forward this e-mail to him or her.

You can always find information online by visiting my website at

[www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell](http://www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell).

As always, if you'd like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by my Olympia office. My office phone number is (360) 786-7654, and my home phone number is (253) 581-2859. Or you can write me at **102 Irv Newhouse Building, P.O. Box 40428, Olympia, WA 98504-0428.**



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Sincerely,

Mike Carrell

28<sup>th</sup> District State Senator